

AN ARGUMENT ABOUT KARMA

Rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ་

Long ago, there was a remote place where people had barbarously struggled for a better life with their courage and physical strength. When the idea of "karma" was first spread by an itinerant guru, locals often discussed this new concept.

One day, a kind man on a journey met a brute of man who disbelieved in karma. The kind man took out a teapot, made tea for lunch, and invited the brute to have tea with him. The brute went over, drank all the tea by himself, and then watched the kind man with sharp, deep eyes.

"It's our karma to share tea together," said the kind man.

"There is no such thing as karma. Don't mention something I will never believe in. Show me where karma is and what karma looks like. Is it white or red? Is it the size of a chicken or a yak?" said the brute.

"I cannot show you karma, but a guru can," said the kind man.

"We will find and ask the guru. If he cannot show me karma, I will gouge out your eyes. If he can, then you gouge out my eyes," said the brute.

The kind man led the brute to where the guru was meditating. "Did you say that there is karma?" asked the brute.

"Yes, karma is everywhere," replied the guru.

"Fine. Show me karma or I will kill you," said the brute, took out his knife, and put its sharp, shiny blade on the guru's shoulder.

"No, there is no karma," said the guru.

"I told you karma does not exist," said the brute, pointed the sharp knife at the kind man, and gouged out his eyes.

The brute then proudly left the guru and the blind man and told everybody he met that karma did not exist.

The blind man crept on his hands and knees like a dog until he came to a door of a deserted house. He silently crept inside and slept in a corner.

Late at night, some wild animals came into the room where he had crept. "The beautiful girl in this village is mad. She has one hair that is red, one that is white, and one that is yellow. If these three hair were removed, she would recover, but nobody knows this," said a lion.

"The grassland near the village has a big stone. If that stone was moved, a spring would flow. If the land that surrounds it was plowed, it would be fertile fields," said a leopard.

"There are two eyes under the peach tree and if a blind man could find them, he could use them to replace his own," said a bear.

The blind man stayed very still. When the animals left, he crept outside and asked the first person he bumped into to take him to the mad girl in the village. When he was brought to her home, he told her father to remove the three hair that he had heard described.

The father did so and the girl immediately recovered. The whole village was moved and encouraged the girl to marry the blind man.

She agreed and the new couple soon found the two eyes under the peach tree. When he put these eyes in his empty sockets, his vision was better than anyone in the village.

Finally, they went to the nearby grassland, removed the stone, and began to cultivate the land, which proved very productive, thanks to irrigation water from the spring.

More days passed and the kind man happened to meet the brute. They stared at each other for a moment and then the brute asked, "How did you get your eyes back?"

After the kind man told all that happened, the brute asked him to gouge out his eyes so he too, could have a good life. The kind man refused so the brute gouged out his own eyes. In great pain, he began crawling. He also came to a deserted building, crept inside, and felt his way to a corner.

Later at night, the same animals came and discussed was how the local people had discovered their secrets. Suspecting someone was eavesdropping, the animals searched the room, discovered the brute, and killed and ate him.

When the guru learned this, he said, "*Rgyu 'bras med pa min smin dus ma tshang ba red* རྒྱུ་འབྲས་མེད་པ་མིན། སླིན་དུས་མ་ཚང་བ་རེད།། When the time comes, karma ripens."

NON-ENGLISH TERMS

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མ་ཚང་བ་རེད།
rnam rgyal རྣམ་རྒྱལ།